

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Amend pages 15 and 16 of the technical description as follows. The second instance of the numeral 40 on original page 15 has been corrected to read 42:

Page 15, line 24 - page 16, line 5:

In one embodiment, the alignment controller 44 is arranged to monitor the identifiers of data frames as they are received and processed by the respective signal adaptors 32, 34. When the data frame carrying, say, identifier *TagX* is detected at one of the signal adaptors 32, 34, the alignment controller 44 measures the time that elapses until the corresponding data frame carrying *TagX* is detected at the other signal adaptor 32, 34. The alignment controller 44 then configures the delay elements ~~40, 40~~ 40, 42 accordingly to compensate for the measured differential delay. Thus, after an initial run-in period, the data signals from both PATH_A and PATH_B are aligned, or synchronised, when presented to the switching device 38. The alignment process may be repeated periodically to allow for changes in the differential time delay.